

Rejections Under 35 USC 103 over Weller

Claims 11-19 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over US Patent 5,876,462 issued to Weller et al. (hereinafter "Weller"). The Examiner alleges that Weller teaches a dry cleaning system for dry cleaning fabrics comprising a heating vessel (a dryer) for containing the fabrics and a carrier sheet comprising a liquid cleaning/refreshment composition and method for dry cleaning fabrics. The Examiner acknowledges that Weller does not teach a system or method in the absence of a bag. However, the Examiner asserts that elimination of an element (i.e., the bag) and its function from a combination where the remaining elements perform the same functions as before is within routine skill in the art.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Weller does not disclose a dry cleaning system or method without a bag to contain the fabric article and the fabric-cleaning sheet.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the present invention retains the dry cleaning/refreshment function even though an element (i.e., the bag) is eliminated from the kit and/or the system and/or the method (page 3, lines 32-35). Moreover, the present invention provides the additional benefits of not adding new wrinkles and/or removing existing wrinkles from the fabrics being treated. (Page 4, lines 2-6). As such, the present invention is non-obvious over Weller.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103 over Weller in view of You

Claims 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Weller in view of U.S. Patent 5,789,368 issued to You et al. (hereinafter "You"). Specifically, Examiner acknowledges that Weller does not disclose materials of the absorbent stain receiver articles and the pre-treating composition. Examiner points to You for using TBAL or FAB as the absorbent stain receiver articles and the pre-treating composition comprising butoxy propoxy propanol. Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to combine Weller and You to improve the cleaning quality.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Weller and You, combined or alone, fail to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention of Claim 11, from which Claims 20-22, ultimately depend. Thus, Claims 20-22 contains every limitations of independent Claim 11. Applicants submit that neither Weller nor You teach or suggest a bagless kit and/or a bagless system.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 20-22 are not rendered obvious over Weller in view of You. MPEP 2143.03.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103 over Weller

Claim 25 is rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103 as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over Weller. The Examiner asserts that Weller teaches a dry cleaning system but fail to specifically recite the surface area of the carrier sheet used in the dry cleaning system. The Examiner concludes that the surface area of the carrier sheet would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the teaching of Weller fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention of Claim 11, from which Claim 25 ultimately depends. Thus, Claim 25 contains every limitations of independent Claim 11. Specifically, Applicants submit that Weller does not teach or suggest a bagless kit and/or a bagless system, as discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 is not rendered obvious over Weller. MPEP 2143.03.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the above response overcomes all the rejections. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and issue a notice of allowance of Claims 11-25.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at 513-627-0352 to discuss any issues relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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